10

15

20

25

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print system for providing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the print system comprising:

judging means for judging whether a type of the print request is a type that the print request is transferred from a client apparatus to a server apparatus and image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to a printer, or a type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer; and

computing means for computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the judged type of the print request.

- 2. A print system according to claim 1, wherein said computing means selects a use fee system of the print service in accordance with information on the judged type of the print request.
- 3. A print system according to claim 1, wherein the server apparatus has a function of managing the print service and the server apparatus includes said computing means.
 - 4. A print system according to claim 1, wherein

15

20

25

the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print request from the client apparatus.

- 5 S. A print system according to claim 1, wherein said computing means computes the use fee in accordance with a print result notice from the printer.
 - 6. A print system according to claim 1, wherein a fee system for the type that the print request is transferred from the client apparatus to the server apparatus and the image data is transferred via the network from the server apparatus to a printer is different from a fee system for the type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer.
 - 7. A method of providing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the method comprising the steps of:

judging whether a type of the print request is a type that the print request is transferred from a client apparatus to a server apparatus and image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to a printer, or a type that the print request is

directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer; and

computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the judged type of the print request.

5

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said computing step selects a use fee system of the print service in accordance with information on the judged type of the print request.

10

15

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein a fee system for the type that the print request is transferred from the client apparatus to the server apparatus and the image data is transferred via the network from the server apparatus to a printer is different from a fee system for the type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer.

20

10. A method according to claim 7, wherein the server apparatus transmits registered image data to the printer in response to the print request from the client apparatus.

25

11. A server apparatus for managing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic

document to be printed, the server apparatus comprising:

judging means for judging whether a type of the print request is a type that the print request is transferred from a client apparatus to a server apparatus and image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to a printer, or a type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer; and

computing means for computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the judged type of the print request.

12. A server apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising storage means for storing data representative of a use fee system for each type of the print request, wherein said computing means selects the use fee system of the print service in accordance with information on the judged type of the print request.

20

5

10

15

13. A server apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the server apparatus is connected to the client apparatus and the printer via the network.

25

14. A server apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising transmission means for transmitting registered image data to the printer in response to the

10

15

20

print request from the client apparatus.

- 15. A server apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising reception means for receiving a print result notice from the printer, wherein said computing means computes a use fee in accordance with the received print result notice.
- 16. A server apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a fee system for the type that the print request is transferred from the client apparatus to the server apparatus and the image data is transferred via the network from the server apparatus to a printer is different from a fee system for the type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer.
- 17. A computer readable storage medium storing a program for managing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the program making a computer execute following steps:
- a step of judging whether a type of the print
 request is a type that the print request is transferred
 from a client apparatus to a server apparatus and image
 data is transferred via a network from the server

10

15

20

apparatus to a printer, or a type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer; and

- a step of computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the judged type of the print request.
 - 18. A computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computing step selects a use fee system of the print service in accordance with information on the judged type of the print request.
 - 19. A computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the server apparatus is connected to the client apparatus and the printer via the network.
 - 20. A computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the program makes the computer execute a step of transmitting registered image data to the printer in response to the print request from the client apparatus.
- 21. A computer readable storage medium according
 25 to claim 17, wherein the program makes the computer
 execute a step of receiving a print result notice from
 the printer, wherein said computing step computes a use

20

fee in accordance with the received print result notice.

- 22. A computer readable storage medium according
 to claim 17, wherein a fee system for the type that the
 print request is transferred from the client apparatus
 to the server apparatus and the image data is
 transferred via the network from the server apparatus
 to a printer is different from a fee system for the
 type that the print request is directly transferred
 from the client apparatus to the printer.
 - 23. A program for managing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the program making a computer execute following steps:
 - a step of judging whether a type of the print request is a type that the print request is transferred from a client apparatus to a server apparatus and image data is transferred via a network from the server apparatus to a printer, or a type that the print request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer; and
- 25 a step of computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the judged type of the print request.

24. A program according to claim 23, wherein said computing step selects a use fee system of the print service in accordance with information on the judged type of the print request.

5

25. A program according to claim 23, wherein the server apparatus is connected to the client apparatus and the printer via the network.

10

26. A program according to claim 23, wherein the program makes the computer execute a step of transmitting registered image data to the printer in response to the print request from the client apparatus.

15

20

27. A program according to claim 23, wherein the program makes the computer execute a step of receiving a print result notice from the printer, wherein said computing step computes a use fee in accordance with the received print result notice.

25

fee system for the type that the print request is transferred from the client apparatus to the server apparatus and the image data is transferred via the network from the server apparatus to a printer is different from a fee system for the type that the print

28. A program according to claim 23, wherein a

15

20

request is directly transferred from the client apparatus to the printer.

29. A print system for providing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the print system comprising:

managing means for managing identification
information for identifying a user requesting the print
service and information on use records of the print
service used by the user, both of the information being
related to each other; and

computing means for computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user managed by said managing means.

30. A print system according to claim 29, wherein said computing means determines a discount rate of a base use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and determines a settlement amount of the print service in accordance with the determined discount rate.

25

31. A print system according to claim 29, further comprising:

discount information managing means for managing information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service to be applied to the user; and

notifying means for notifying the user of an effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated,

wherein said discount information managing means updates the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service in accordance with information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and said notifying means notifies the user of the effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated.

15

20

10

5

32. A print system according to claim 29, wherein said managing means includes a management table storing identification information for identifying the user and information on the use records of the print service used by the user, both of the information being related to each other, and updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.

25

33. A print system according to claim 29, further comprising notifying means for notifying the user of an effect that the management table was updated, wherein

said managing means updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and said notifying means notifies the user of an effect that the management table was updated.

5

10

15

20

25

- 34. A print system according to claim 29, further comprising condition determining means for determining a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user.
- 35. A print system according to claim 29, further comprising:

condition managing means for managing identification information for identifying the user and information on a charge condition applied to the user, both of the information being related to each other; and

notifying means for notifying the user of an effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition determining means updates information on the charge condition applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user and said notifying means notifies the user of the effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

10

15

20

36. A method of providing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the method comprising:

a managing step of managing identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and information on use records of the print service used by the user, both of the information being related to each other; and

a computing step of computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user managed by said managing means.

- 37. A method according to claim 36, wherein said computing step determines a discount rate of a base use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and determines a settlement amount of the print service in accordance with the determined discount rate.
 - 38. A method according to claim 36, further comprising:
- 25 a discount information managing step of managing information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service to be applied to the user; and

10

15

20

25

a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated.

wherein said discount information managing step updates the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service in accordance with information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of the effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated.

- 39. A method according to claim 36, wherein said managing step is provided with a management table storing identification information for identifying the user and information on the use records of the print service used by the user, both of the information being related to each other, and updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user.
- 40. A method according to claim 36, further comprising a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the management table was updated, wherein said managing step updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of an

10

15

20

effect that the management table was updated.

- 41. A method according to claim 36, further comprising a condition determining step of determining a charge condition applied to the user, in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user.
- 42. A method according to claim 36, further comprising:

a condition managing step of managing identification information for identifying the user and information on a charge condition applied to the user, both of the information being related to each other; and

a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated,

wherein said condition determining step updates information on the charge condition applied to the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user and said notifying step notifies the user of the effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

25

43. A storing medium storing a program for providing print service for printing an electronic

10

15

20

25

document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the program making a computer execute following steps:

a managing step of managing identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and information on use records of the print service used by the user, both of the information being related to each other; and

a computing step of computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user managed by said managing means.

 $\begin{tabular}{lll} \bf 44. & {\tt A storage medium according to claim 43,} \\ & {\tt wherein:} \end{tabular}$

the program makes the computer execute a discount information managing step of managing information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service to be applied to the user and a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated, and

said discount information managing step updates the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service in accordance with information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of the

10

15

20

25

effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated.

45. A storage medium according to claim 43,

the program makes the computer execute a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the management table was updated, and

said managing step updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of an effect that the management table was updated.

46. A storage medium according to claim 43, wherein:

the program makes the computer execute a condition managing step of managing identification information for identifying the user and information on a charge condition applied to the user, both of the information being related to each other, and a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated, and

said condition determining step updates
information on the charge condition applied to the user
in accordance with use of the print service by the user
and said notifying step notifies the user of the effect

that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

47. A program for providing print service for printing an electronic document in response to a print request including designation of the electronic document to be printed, the program making a computer execute following steps:

a managing step of managing identification information for identifying a user requesting the print service and information on use records of the print service used by the user, both of the information being related to each other; and

a computing step of computing a use fee of the print service in accordance with the information on the use records of the print service used by the user managed by said managing means.

48. A program according to claim 47, wherein:

the program makes the computer execute a discount information managing step of managing information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service to be applied to the user and a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated, and

said discount information managing step updates

20

25

15

5

10

10

15

20

25

the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service in accordance with information on the use records of the print service used by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of the effect that the information on the discount rate of the base use fee of the print service was updated.

49. A program according to claim 47, wherein: the program makes the computer execute a notifying step of notifying the user of an effect that the management table was updated, and

said managing step updates the management table for the user in accordance with use of the print service by the user, and said notifying step notifies the user of an effect that the management table was updated.

50. A program according to claim 47, wherein:
the program makes the computer execute a condition
managing step of managing identification information
for identifying the user and information on a charge
condition applied to the user, both of the information
being related to each other, and a notifying step of
notifying the user of an effect that the charge
condition applied to the user was updated, and

said condition determining step updates information on the charge condition applied to the user

in accordance with use of the print service by the user and said notifying step notifies the user of the effect that the charge condition applied to the user was updated.

5